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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/666,604	THOMAS, LEWIS J.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	TuyetLien (Lien) T. Tran	2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 09/17/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7, 10-18 and 21-23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph F. Hetz on 11/28/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

2. The specification has been amended. On page 4, line 22, "RF" is amended to -- radio frequency (RF) --.

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for displaying and/or manipulating medical image data, the method comprising:

(a) receiving, with a medical image viewer in compliance with a medical image standard and comprising medical-image-standard-compliant software, a file in compliance with the medical image standard, wherein the medical image standard specifies a first field for data not in compliance with the medical image standard and a second field for data in compliance with the medical image standard, wherein the first field of the file comprises medical image data and the second field of the file comprises information that can be used to obtain software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data;

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(b) with the medical-image-standard-compliant software, reading, from the second field, the information that can be used to obtain software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data;

(c) obtaining the software identified by the information in the second field; and

(d) performing at least one of the following with the software obtained in (c): displaying the medical image data and manipulating the medical image data;

wherein the medical image standard comprises Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM), and

wherein the first field of the medical image standard comprises a DICOM private attribute, and wherein the second field of the medical image standard comprises a DICOM standard attribute.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The invention of Claim 1, wherein the medical image data is selected from the group consisting of RF radio frequency (RF) data, pre-scan converted data, pre-reconstruction data, and a three- dimensional data set

Claim 8 is cancelled.

Claim 9 is cancelled.

Claim 13. (currently amended) A medical image viewer comprising:

a display device;

a processor; and

a storage device storing:

a file in compliance with a medical image standard, wherein the medical image standard specifies a first field for data not in compliance with the medical image standard and a second field for data in compliance with the medical image standard, wherein the first field of the file comprises medical image data and the second field of the file comprises information that can be used to obtain software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data; and

medical-image-standard-compliant software that, when executed by the processor, is operative to read from the second field, the information that can be used to obtain software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data;

wherein the processor is operative to obtain the software identified by the information in the second field and perform at least one of the following with the software identified by the information: displaying the medical image data and manipulating the medical image data;

wherein the medical image standard comprises Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM), and

wherein the first field of the medical image standard comprises a DICOM private attribute, and wherein the second field of the medical image standard comprises a DICOM standard attribute.

Claim 18 (currently amended) The invention of Claim 13, wherein the medical image data is selected from the group consisting of RF radio frequency (RF) data, pre-reconstruction data, and a three- dimensional data set

Claim 19 is cancelled.

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Claim 20 is cancelled.

Claims 24-27 are cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-7, 10-18 and 21-23 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Independent claims 1 and 13, when considered as a whole, are allowable over the prior art of record. Specifically, prior art of record fail to clearly teach or fairly suggest the limitations "with the medical-image-standard-compliant software, reading, from the second field, the information that can be used to obtain software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data; wherein the medical image standard comprises DICOM, and wherein the first field of the medical image standard comprises a DICOM private attribute, and wherein the second field of the medical image standard comprises a DICOM standard attribute." The dependent claims further add limitations to the allowable subject matter of the corresponding independent claims; thus are also allowable.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TuyetLien (Lien) T. Tran whose telephone number is 571-270-1033. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday: 7:30 - 5:00, off on alternating Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

T.T
11/28/2007

Lien Tran
Examiner
Art Unit 2179



WEILUN LO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER